## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION

In re:

SETTLEMENT FACILITY MATTERS,

CASE NO. 00-0005

**Dow Corning Corporation,** 

HONORABLE DENISE PAGE HOOD

Reorganized Debtor.

## **AGREED STIPULATION OF FACTS**

The O'Quinn Law Firm and O'Quinn & Laminack (collectively "O'Quinn") and the Settlement Facility-Dow Corning Trust Claims Administrator (the "Claims Administrator"), in regards to this Court's Order to Show Cause dated April 5, 2007, have agreed to the stipulation of the facts set out below:

- 1. This Court has defined for clients expenses as "things your attorney has paid out of his/her pocket on your behalf to further your claim" in the Court Approved Questions and Answers, Attorneys Fees and Expenses, Question 5.
- 2. O'Quinn borrowed from banks funds necessary to pay litigation expenses on behalf of the O'Quinn clients<sup>1</sup> in this matter.
- 3. O'Quinn did not charge, or pass on to, clients any of the interest charged by banks for money O'Quinn borrowed to pay litigation expenses. While clients' settlement sheets showed the interest incurred on the money borrowed for expenses of litigation, that interest was never charged to the client. The settlement sheets reflected the interest incurred (but not charged) primarily because the settlement sheets were used by O'Quinn as internal control documents to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> O'Quinn's clients refer to those clients making claims in this matter.

track all expenses, regardless of whether those expenses were charged to the client. The settlement sheets show that clients did not pay interest on money borrowed for expenses of litigation.

- O'Quinn occasionally advanced money to certain clients for medical or living 4. expenses. The advances were not expenses of litigation, for the prosecution of the case, or for the purpose of handling a claimant's case.
- The funds for advances were borrowed from a bank by O'Quinn and O'Quinn 5. passed along to those clients only the interest charged by the bank for those advances for medical or living expenses.
- O'Ouinn is a Texas law firm and its lawyers were licensed to practice law in the 6. State of Texas at all relevant times.
- The Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct govern the conduct of 7. lawyers licensed to practice law in the State of Texas.
- The Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct allow a lawyer to advance 8. to a client "reasonably necessary medical and living expenses, the repayment of which may be contingent on the outcome of the matter."
- 9. O'Quinn made advances for reasonably necessary medical and living expenses, including for mortgage payments, utility bills, medications and legal bills unrelated to this case.
- 10. The advances for medical or living expenses for which O'Quinn subsequently passed along interest charges to clients were not things O'Quinn had paid out of pocket on the client's behalf to further the client's claim. When advances were made for medical treatment by O'Quinn, the medical treatment was not for the purpose of furthering the client's case.

- It was O'Ouinn's practice to make advances for medical or living expenses only 11. after the client had agreed in writing that O'Quinn would have to borrow such money from its bank and the client would repay the amount borrowed plus that interest the bank had charged.
- O'Ouinn made direct advances to the client only if a provider would not accept a 12. letter of protection from O'Quinn.
- To confirm that charging interest on advances for medical and living expenses 13. was acceptable under the Court's Order, in November 2005, Rick Laminack of the O'Quinn Firm discussed this very issue with Ernie Hornsby, one of the members of the Plaintiffs' Committee in the Dow Bankruptcy.
- 14. Mr. Hornsby confirmed to Mr. Laminack his belief that a client may be charged interest on advances if the money was not for litigation expenses and the client had signed an agreement that they would pay interest on any advance, which was consistent with the practice of O'Quinn.
- 15. O'Quinn's understanding was subsequently confirmed by Mr. David Austern, Claims Administrator of the Settlement Facility Dow Corning Trust.
- In January 2007, Mr. Austern asked for an explanation of O'Quinn's policy 16. regarding expenses, advances and interest as related to the distribution of Dow settlement proceeds.
- 17. In response, on January 30, 2007, Mr. Laminack sent Mr. Austern a letter explaining that Quinn does not charge the clients interest on expenses, and O'Quinn only passed along charges for interest it had been charged by the bank for money advanced or loaned to the client for reasonably necessary medical or living expenses that are not litigation expenses.

- 18. Mr. Austern responded in writing to Mr. Laminack to the effect that he believed charging interest on advances for which O'Quinn paid interest did not violate the Court's Order.
- Mr. Austern further indicated to Mr. Laminack his belief that, if the Order were 19. interpreted to prohibit interest on advances, then the Order should be amended to permit such interest charges.

AGREED AND ENTERED INTO, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of October, 2009.

David T. Austern

Claims Administrator

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ATTORNEYS FOR THE O'QUINN LAW FIRM AND O'QUINN & LAMINACK

<u>ORDER</u>		
IT IS SO ORDERED.		
United States District Judge		
Dated		

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this	day of October, 2009, a true and correct copy of t	the
foregoing instrument was forwarded via	notice of electronic filing and/or via telecopier and	/or
U.S. Mail to all parties in interest.		